AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

selecting, by a software grid establishment component (GEC), from a plurality of nodes, a set of grid nodes having a media access control port accessible by the software GEC; and

~~determining, by a grid establishment component, from a plurality of nodes, a set of grid nodes to include in a resource grid, wherein each grid node provides zero or more resources, and wherein each grid node has a grid facilitation agent operating thereon; and~~

establishing, by the software GEC without user intervention ~~grid establishment component~~, the resource grid, wherein establishing comprises:

issuing, via the media access control port, a command to each of the grid nodes in the set of grid nodes to perform a network reboot, wherein the set of grid nodes performs the network reboot using an operating system image provided by the software GEC, and wherein the operating system image comprises an operating system and a grid facilitation agent;

configuring, using the grid facilitation agent, each grid node in the set of grid nodes to enable that grid node to participate as part of the resource grid, wherein configuring [[a]] the grid node to enable that grid node to participate as part of the resource grid comprises:

deploying a grid participation module to the grid facilitation agent operating on the grid node, [[and]]

instructing the grid facilitation agent to run the grid participation module on the grid node to enable the grid node to participate as part of the resource grid,

wherein the grid participation module corresponding to a grid master comprises instructions for selecting a slave node to process a resource request and instructions for forwarding the resource request to the slave node, and

wherein the grid participation module corresponding to the slave node comprises instructions for receiving the resource request from the grid master and instructions for processing the resource request,

deploying an application for processing the resource request to the grid node when the grid node is the slave node, and

instructing the grid facilitation agent to run the application when the grid node is the slave node; [[and]]

establishing the ~~one or more~~ grid master ~~masters~~ to manage access to the resources provided by the grid nodes, such that the resource grid formed by the grid nodes behaves as a single pool of resources accessible through the ~~one or more~~ grid master ~~masters~~;

configuring the grid master with an identity of each slave node; and

configuring each slave node with an identity of the grid master.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

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6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~establishing~~ the ~~one or more~~ grid master ~~masters comprises: establishing~~ executes the software GEC ~~grid establishment component as a grid master~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein establishing the ~~one or more~~ grid master ~~masters~~ comprises:

establishing at least one of the grid nodes in the set of grid nodes as a grid master.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus communicatively coupled to a plurality of nodes, the apparatus comprising:

a mechanism for selecting from the plurality of nodes, a set of grid nodes having a media access control port accessible by the software GEC; and ~~determining, from the plurality of nodes, a set of grid nodes to include in a resource grid, wherein each grid node provides zero or more resources, and wherein each grid node has a grid facilitation agent operating thereon; and~~

a mechanism for establishing, without user intervention, the resource grid, wherein the mechanism for establishing the resource grid comprises:

a mechanism for issuing, via the media access control port, a command to each of the grid nodes in the set of grid nodes to perform a network reboot, wherein the set of grid nodes performs the network reboot using an operating system image provided by the software GEC, and wherein the operating system image comprises an operating system and a grid facilitation agent;

a mechanism for configuring, using the grid facilitation agent, each grid node in the set of grid nodes to enable that grid node to participate as part of the resource

grid, wherein the mechanism for configuring [[each]] the grid node comprises:

a mechanism for deploying a grid participation module to the grid facilitation agent operating on the grid node, [[and]]

a mechanism for instructing the grid facilitation agent to run the grid participation module on the grid node to enable to grid node to participate as part of the resource grid,

wherein the grid participation module corresponding to a grid master comprises instructions for selecting a slave node to process a resource request and instructions for forwarding the resource request to the slave node, and

wherein the grid participation module corresponding to the slave node comprises instructions for receiving the resource request from the grid master and instructions for processing the resource request,

a mechanism for deploying an application for processing the resource request to the grid node when the grid node is the slave node, and

a mechanism for instructing the grid facilitation agent to run the application when the grid node is the slave node; [[and]]

a mechanism for establishing ~~one or more~~ the grid ~~masters~~ master to manage access to the resources provided by the grid nodes, such that the resource grid formed by the grid nodes behaves as a single pool of resources accessible through the ~~one or more grid masters~~ grid master;

a mechanism for configuring the grid master with an identity of each slave node; and

a mechanism for configuring each slave node with an identity of the grid master.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the ~~mechanism for establishing one or more~~ grid master executes ~~masters comprises: a~~ the mechanism for establishing the resource grid ~~a grid establishment component as a grid master~~.

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the mechanism for establishing ~~one or more~~ the grid master ~~masters~~ comprises:

a mechanism for establishing at least one of the grid nodes in the set of grid nodes as [[a]] the grid master.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~In a system comprising a plurality of nodes, a~~ A computer storage readable medium, comprising instructions for causing one or more processors to:

select, from a plurality of nodes, a set of grid nodes having a media access control port accessible by the software GEC; and

~~instructions for causing one or more processors to determine, from the plurality of nodes, a set of grid nodes to include in a resource grid, wherein each grid node provides zero or more resources, and wherein each grid node has a grid facilitation agent operating thereon; and~~

~~instructions for causing one or more processors to~~ establish, without user intervention, the resource grid, wherein ~~the instructions for causing one or more processors to~~ establish comprises:

issuing, via the media access control port, a command to each of the grid nodes in the set of grid nodes to perform a network reboot, wherein the set of grid nodes performs the network reboot using an operating system image provided by the software GEC, and wherein the operating system image comprises an operating system and a grid facilitation agent;

~~instructions for causing one or more processors to configure~~ configuring, using the grid facilitation agent, each grid node in the set of grid nodes to enable that grid node to participate as part of the resource grid, wherein the ~~instructions for causing one or more processors to configure each~~ configuring the grid node to enable that grid node to participate as part of the resource grid comprises:

deploying a grid participation module to the grid facilitation agent operating on the grid node, [[and]]

instructing the grid facilitation agent to run the grid participation module on the grid node to enable the grid node to participate as part of the resource grid,

wherein the grid participation module corresponding to a grid master comprises instructions for selecting a slave node to process a resource request and instructions for forwarding the resource request to the slave node, and

wherein the grid participation module corresponding to the slave node comprises instructions for receiving the resource request from the grid master and instructions for processing the resource request,

deploying an application for processing the resource request to the grid node when the grid node is the slave node, and

instructing the grid facilitation agent to run the application when the grid node is the slave node; [[and]]

~~instructions for causing one or more processors to~~ establishing the ~~one or more~~ grid ~~masters~~ master to manage access to the resources provided by the grid nodes, such that the resource grid formed by the grid nodes behaves as a single pool of resources accessible through the ~~one or more grid masters~~ grid master;

configuring the grid master with an identity of each slave node; and

configuring each slave node with an identity of the grid master.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 27, wherein the ~~instructions for causing one or more processors to establish one or more~~ grid master ~~masters comprises: instructions for causing one or more processors to~~ establishes [[a]] the resource grid ~~establishment component as a grid master~~.

39. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 27, wherein the ~~instructions for causing one or more processors to~~ establishing the ~~one or more~~ grid master ~~masters~~ comprises:

~~instructions for causing one or more processors to~~ establish at least one of the grid nodes in the set of grid nodes as a grid master.

40. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of grid nodes comprises only a portion of the plurality of grid nodes having a media access control port accessible by the software GEC.

41. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the set of grid nodes comprises only a portion of the plurality of grid nodes having a media access control port accessible by the software GEC.

42. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 27, wherein the set of grid nodes comprises only a portion of the plurality of grid nodes having a media access control port accessible by the software GEC.